



Scotch-Irish Research

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History of the Scotch-Irish

Scots-Irish or Scotch-Irish

- At the time, they were not known as either.
- Now days, in the British Isles they are called Scots-Irish and are called the Scotch-Irish on the American side.
- They were sometimes called Ulster Scots.
- Patrick Griffin argues in *The People with No Name* that many of them just called themselves “frontier inhabitants” after settling in America.

The Ulster Plantations · A result of the Nine Year’s War (1594-1603), also known as Tyrone’s Rebellion.

- The Ulster Plantations coincided with the reigns of the Stuart kings and queens, 1603-1714.
- The plantations were a part of King James I’s agenda of blending English, Scottish and Welsh together in Ulster.
- Lands of Irish chieftains were confiscated and parceled out to English and Scottish landowners.

Scottish Settlement in Ulster

- Significant Scottish settlement in Ulster.
- Between 1603 and 1700, more than 100,000 Scots immigrated to Ulster.

Where the Scots Came From

- The majority of the Scots came from the Scottish lowlands.
- The lowlands of 17th century Scotland were the most populated part of the country.
- The Scottish lowlands were also filled with poverty, violence and other social problems. · People were desperate to immigrate to hopefully find new land and work.
- A number of these Scots were Scottish border “Reivers” or “Riding Families.” They were lowland Scots who raided along the Scottish-English border. They made their living by cattle stealing, kidnapping, blackmail and looting. These border families were fearless and “highly adaptable guerilla fighters.”

Problems in Ulster

- Problems with the native Irish population
- Ulster’s failing economy in the first decades of the 18th century
- Religious persecution – Charles II’s Lord Justice of Ireland forbade meetings of “Papists, Presbyterians ... and other fanatical persons.”

Immigration to North America

- Between 1718 and 1775, more than 100,000 emigrated from Ulster to the American colonies.
- They called themselves “frontier inhabitants.”

Influence of America’s Scotch-Irish

- They strongly supported the American Revolution, which one English contemporary called “an Irish-Scotch Presbyterian Rebellion.”
- They were the backbone of American frontier settlement.
- Over the years, they have produced numerous American business, cultural and political leaders.

Ulster/Scots-Irish Research & Records

FamilySearch and the Family History Library

- FamilySearch Records
- FamilySearch Catalog – Archives and Libraries; Biography; Church Records; Court Records; Directories; Land and Property; Military Records; Etc.

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)

- PRONI’s electronic Catalogue
- Freeholders’ List
- Will Calendars
- Londonderry Corporation Records
- Name Search

Other Societies and Websites

- www.ancestry.com
- <http://www.arts.ulster.ac.uk/ulsterscots/37-2/> - Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies and Institute of Irish-Scots Studies
- <https://www.emeraldancestors.com/>
- www.findmypast.ie
- www.genuki.org
- <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nirwgv/> - Northern Ireland GenWeb
- <http://www.plantationofulster.org/>
- <http://www.rootsireland.ie/>
- <http://www.scotch-irishsocietyusa.org/> - Scotch-Irish Society USA
- <http://www.nmni.com/uafp> - Ulster American Folk Park and Centre for Migration Studies
- <http://www.ulsterancestry.com/>
- <http://www.ancestryireland.com/> - Ulster Historical Foundation
- <http://www.ulsterscotssociety.com/> - The Ulster-Scots Society of America

For Further Reading

Fitzpatrick, Rory. *God's Frontiersmen: The Scots-Irish Epic*. London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1989.

Gillespie, Raymond. *Colonial Ulster: The Settlement of East Ulster, 1600-1641*. Cork: Cork University Press, 1985.

Griffin, Patrick. *The People with No Name: Ireland's Ulster Scots, America's Scots Irish, and the Creation of a British Atlantic World, 1689-1764*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001.

Kelly, W. P., and J. R. Young. *Scotland and Ulster Plantations: Exploring in the British Settlements of Stuart Ireland*. Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2009.

Maxwell, Ian. *Tracing Your Northern Irish Ancestors: A Guide for Family Historians*. Barnsley, South Yorkshire, England: Pen & Sword Books, 2010.

Roulston, William J. *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors" The Essential Genealogical Guide to Early Modern Ulster, 1600-1800*. Belfast: Ulster Historical Foundation, 2005.

Woodburn, James Barkley. *The Ulster Scot: His History and Religion*. London: H. R. Allenson, 1914.

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